Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01

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R 231227Z NOV 76

11 23122721101 70

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 372

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

CONFIDENTIAL RABAT 6306

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR MO US

SUBJECT: KING HASSAN EXPRESSES INTEREST IN VISITING US

1. IN INTERVIEW WITH FRENCH "PRESS CLUB OF EUROPE NUMBER ONE" RELEASED NOV 21 PRIOR TO KING'S DEPARTURE FOR FRANCE FOLLOWING DAY, KING WAS ASKED BY PIERRI SALINGER FOR HIS ASSESSMENT OF US ELECTIONS AND OF PRESIDENT-ELECT AND WHETHER HE PLANNED TO VISIT US NEXT YEAR. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF KING'S REPLY FOLLOWS: "MY TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES HAS CERTAINLY BEEN PROGRAMMED FOR A LONG TIME. I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES NEXT YEAR. I DO NOT KNOW MR. CARTER AND IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR ME TO EXPRESS A JUDGMENT ABOUT HIM. IF I HAVE AN OPINION TO EXPRESS IT IS THAT YOU SHOULD REALLY AMEND THE CONSITTUTION. THE PRESIDENT'S MANDATE IS TOO SHORT: ONE YEAR TO SETTLE IN, ONLY TWO YEARS TO GOVERN, AND ONE YEAR TO PREPARE ONCE AGAIN FOR THE ELECTIONS. I FIND THAT THIS IS TOO SHORT AND WHEN YOU THINK THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS ON HIS SHOULDERS A NUCLEAR FORCE AND THE GREATEST ENERGY IN THE WORLD, TWO POTENTIALITIES, AND HE ONLY HAS TWO YEARS TO GOVERN, ASSESS, AND DECIDE, THAT IS TOO LITTLE. IF I WERE A CONGRESS-MAN I WOULD PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION." CONFIDENTIAL

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2. COMMENT: KING HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN THINKING FOR SOME MONTHS ABOUT TRAVEL TO US. IN EARLY JULY, FOR EXAMPLE, HE TOLD ME HE LOOKED FORWARD TO VISITING THE US FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN ORDER TO RENEW A HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES (RABAT 3703 NOTAL). A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF HIS CURRENT NOV 22-25 VISIT TO FRANCE WILL BE LIKELY TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER TRAVELS. ANDERSON

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To: STATE

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